

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks.

The amendments to this patent application are to cancel claims 2 and 3 without prejudice, and to incorporate the subject matter thereof into claim 1. Thus claim 1 should now be allowable. Also claims 12 and 17 were amended to provide proper antecedent basis for terminologies, so as to overcome the formal ground of rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claim 25 was revised to correct its dependency from cancelled claim 3 to independent claim 1.

For all these reasons, it is firmly believed that all the claims are now in complete compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 13 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 1,287,063. Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable of GB 1,287,063. Claims 8 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) being unpatentable over GB 1,287,063 in view of Siegers, DE 3416004, and further in view of Karger et al., Patent 1224786.

Claims 11, 16, 19, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 1,287,063 in view of Siegers, DE 3416004, and further in view of Whitehead et al., EP 0214608.

Claims 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 1,287,063 in view of Siegers, DE 3416004, and further in view of Griswold et al., US 3,081,515.

Claims 19-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 1,287,063, in view of Siegers DE 3416004, and further in view of Srinivasan et al., US 5,830,555.

Because claims 3-6 and 25 were merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, claim 1 was amended to recite the features of allowable claim 3. Thus all of the above prior art rejections have now been rendered moot, and have now been overcome.

Thus the present patent application is now in condition for allowance. A prompt notification thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STEFAN ETZOLD ET AL

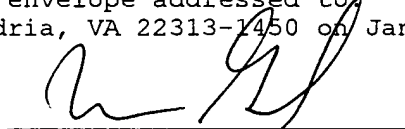


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